

Call for Proposals

New York Great Lakes Protection Fund Small Grants Program

Offered by:

Great Lakes Research Consortium, NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation and the New York Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council

General Information

Program Goals: This small grants program provides seed funding for new, cooperative projects that improve our understanding of, and/or management of, New York's Great Lakes basin. The program supports collaborative projects and grant awards can be used for preliminary research, project planning, as seed money for pilot projects that will lead to larger projects, or to support small-scale projects consistent with the objectives below.

Money available: The maximum amount for an individual grant is \$14,000. The money for this program comes from the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund. These are New York State-appropriated funds subject to all applicable state rules and regulations. No indirect costs are allowed. We expect to fund 2-4 projects through this solicitation. Award decisions and funds are anticipated to be available April 15, 2014 and should end no later than December 31st, 2015.

Proposal Submission: Proposal submissions should be sent electronically as a single PDF file attachment GLRC@esf.edu. Documents should be checked for viruses or malware prior to sending and any documents that fail the campus security screening will be deleted without opening. *Electronic versions of the proposals should be received no later than **February 10, 2014**. Prior to funding, all successful recipients will be asked to submit an original signed copy of the proposal to:* Great Lakes Research Consortium, SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, 254 Baker Lab, Syracuse, NY 13210. Questions regarding may be addressed to Greg Boyer, Director of the GLRC at GLRC@esf.edu or by phone to 315-470-6720.

Funding Criteria: The intent of the NY State Great Lakes Protection Fund (NYGLPF) small grants program is to promote research that contributed to the protection and restoration of the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. *Projects funded by this small grant program must meet one or more of the priority categories listed below, and must satisfy the following criteria:*

Appropriate: Project must be consistent with the goals and purposes of the NY Great Lakes Action Agenda and NYGLPF as described in this request for proposals.

Collaborative: Project must foster communication and cooperative action between New York's colleges and universities, state and local government, business and industry, and environmental or conservation organizations. Collaborative projects involving more than one institution and those providing support for internships working with local government and community organizations are strongly encouraged.

- Effective:** Proposals must demonstrate how the project will lead to measurable progress in achieving the goals and priorities of the Great Lakes Protection fund.
- Productive:** The project must have defined outcomes. Those projects which clearly demonstrate the potential to grow into larger projects consistent with the NYGLPF goals and purposes are highly encouraged.
- Relevant:** Projects should describe their relevance to New York State Great Lakes efforts as described in the New York State Great Lakes Action agenda (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>). This action agenda brings together new priorities, as well as existing environmental, social and economic goals previously identified for New York's Great Lakes region, using an ecosystem-based management approach. Priorities include: (a) Virtually eliminate discharges of persistent toxic substances, (b) Control sediment, nutrient and pathogen releases, (c) Accelerate the delisting of New York's Areas of Concern, (d) Combat invasive species, (e) Conserve and restore fish and wildlife, (f) Conserve Great Lakes water supplies, (f) Enhance coastal resiliency and ecosystem integrity, (g) Promote smart growth, redevelopment and adaptive reuse, (h) Enhance recreation and tourism opportunities and (i) Plan for future energy development.

Projects from new Faculty members at the GLRC member campuses, cooperative efforts with other funding programs, and projects in support of coastal resiliency and climate change impacts as described in the NYS Great Lakes Action Agenda (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>) are especially encouraged. Projects should not duplicate existing programs or be used for base program support.

Purpose of the New York Great Lakes Protection Fund

The following are types of projects that are eligible:

- Research on the economic, environmental and human health effects of contamination in the Great Lakes;
- Collection and analysis of data on the Great Lakes;
- Development of new or improved environmental clean-up technologies applicable to the Great Lakes;
- Research to assess the effectiveness of pollution control policies affecting the Great Lakes;
- Assessment of the health of the Great Lakes fish, wildlife, waterfowl, and other organisms;
- Projects that address specific research needs of the NY Great Lakes Action agenda.

Eligible Projects, Category A:

Research on the economic, environmental and health effects of contamination in the Great Lakes

<u>Priority Topic(s)</u>	<u>Objective(s):</u>
Health Effects of Exposure to Contaminants	To improve understanding of the mechanisms and human, public and ecological consequences of subtle biological effects of exposure to contaminants in the Great Lakes. OR
	To identify groups likely to be exposed to contaminants in the environment through geographic proximity or fish consumption and improve understanding of the effects on particularly vulnerable groups of exposure to persistent toxic substances. OR
	To advance the knowledge of the effects on human and ecological health of exposure to newly measured bioaccumulative and potentially toxic compounds in the environment.
OR	
Use Impairment (Problem) Identification and Analysis	To improve the understanding of lake-wide or Area of Concern use impairments that exist due to Great Lakes contamination.

Eligible Projects, Category B:
The Collection and Analysis of Data on the Great Lakes

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Data needed to support New York's participation in regional water management.	To improve understanding of existing and changing water budgets in New York's portion of the Great Lakes, including groundwater and surface water use, availability and flows or changing precipitation patterns. OR
	To improve understanding of the environmental effects in New York of alternative water level scenarios. OR
	To develop methods to report and display data in ways that improve water management decision-making and public participation.
OR	
Data on pollutant loadings and trends lake-wide and in New York's Areas of Concern	To quantify pollutant loadings for use in lake-wide and AOC modeling and monitoring.
OR	
Public Attitudes and Knowledge of Great Lakes Issues	To gather and interpret information on public attitudes and knowledge on Great Lakes issues to be used in the development of school and adult educational efforts. OR
	To develop tools which promote information access and assessment pertaining to economic, social and environmental policy decision-making.

Eligible Projects, Category C:

Development of new or improved environmental clean-up technologies applicable to the Great Lakes

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Lakewide or Area of Concern Use Impairment (Problem) Remediation.	To develop and advance the effectiveness of new or improved remediation technology, systems or methods; OR
	To develop data interpretation tools for assessing the ecological and/or economic costs and benefits of remediation.

Eligible Projects, Category D:

Research to assess the effectiveness of pollution control policies affecting the Great Lakes

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Management of Stormwater Runoff, On-site Septic Systems, and Sanitary Sewer Overflows	To determine the effectiveness of current policies and/or programs to control pollution from urban and agricultural stormwater runoff, on-site septic systems, and sanitary sewer overflows. OR
	To compare the effectiveness of alternative approaches to controlling pollution from stormwater runoff, on-site septic systems, and sanitary sewer overflows. OR
	To assess the potential effectiveness of new or more effective management structures or financing mechanisms for implementing pollution control policies.
OR	
Public Awareness	To assess effectiveness of public communication and community outreach concerning water pollution controls, conservation and management and recommend improvements based on up-to-date research into environmental communication and public participation.

Eligible Projects, Category E:

Assessment of the health of the Great Lakes fish, wildlife, waterfowl and other organisms

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Impacts of likely changes in the Great Lakes environment	To determine current and predict likely impacts of future changes in nutrient levels on Lake Erie and Lake Ontario aquatic life and ecology. OR

Category E, continued

	To determine current and predict likely future impacts of invasive species and/or to develop effective management strategies to deal with these impacts. OR
	To determine current and predict likely future impacts of changes in water levels and fluctuations and/or to develop effective management strategies to deal with these impacts. OR
	To determine current and predict likely future impacts from regional climate as affected by global change
OR	
Aquatic Habitats	To improve our understanding of the threats to and/or quality of critical habitats including open lake, rock shoals, nearshore, embayments, wetlands, and tributaries of the Great Lakes.
OR	
Aquatic Populations	To improve our understanding of the population trends and threats to key aquatic populations and their health.

Eligible Projects, Category F:

Other project needed for implementation of the New York State Great Lakes Action Agenda

Priority Topic(s)	Objective(s):
Impacts of storm events and climate change on the resiliency of the Great Lakes.	To determine how climate change will affect nutrient cycling and fluxes in Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. OR
	To improve our understanding of those social economic factors that limit the implementation of future climate change resiliency strategies. OR
	To develop new green infrastructure and strategies that will increase the resiliency of Great Lakes communities to future storm events. OR
OR	
Other priority needs.	To improve our understanding of other priority needs required for the implementation of the New York State Great Lakes Action agenda.

Proposal Review: The Research Consortium will establish a review panel to evaluate proposals based on technical merit. Based on this technical review, the projects are ranked and this ranking and peer review comments is provided to the Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council. Members of the Council evaluate how well each proposal furthers the goals and objectives of the Great Lakes Protection Fund and the New York State Great Lakes Action agenda. Based on their review and the technical ranking provided by the Consortium, the Council recommends a list of projects for funding to the Department of Environmental Conservation for final approval.

Proposal Format:

A. Cover Sheet:

1. Project Title
2. Principal Investigator (Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Fax, Email)
3. Collaborator(s) (Name, Affiliation, Address, City, State, Zip, Phone, Fax, Email)
4. Amount Requested
5. Priority Category(s) (Identify the NYGLPF and NYS Action Agenda categories addressed)
6. Institutional Signatures

B. Proposal: The text of the proposal should be no more than 5 pages, excluding coverpage, references and supporting materials. It must include the following elements:

1. **Nontechnical Abstract:** Briefly summarize the project's focus and goal, scope of work, nature of collaboration, and significance to the priorities of the New York Great Lakes Action Agenda. This abstract will be used for distribution on the GLRC website.

2. **Statement of the project's focus:** State the issues that are to be addressed by the project and in a clear and concise manner how the project relates to the objectives and priorities identified in the Great Lakes Protection Fund and New York State Action Agenda.
3. **Scope of Work:** Describe the purpose and scope of work to be accomplished. Include the following: purpose of the project and specific objectives to be achieved; public benefits and implications for policy development; end-products of the project and how these products will be used to further develop the project and goals of the NY action agenda.
4. **Timeframe:** Provide a time-frame for completion of objectives and major milestones of the work.
5. **Personnel and Collaboration:** Describe the nature and degree of collaboration between those involved. Describe the personnel to be assigned to this project. Include resumes of all lead personnel. If an intern is involved in the project, list their major advisor or agency and describe how the intern will be recruited.

C. Budget and Justification: The budget justification should start on a separate page entitled "Budget Justification" and is not included in the 5-page proposal total. The budget must include the following items.

1. Total NYGLPF funds requested.
2. Matching funds. Matching funds are not required for this program however they are strongly encouraged. If matching funds are being used, show them in the budget. Only non-state funds are eligible to be used as a match.
3. Person-months. Person-months must be broken into NYGLPF-funded and contributed shares.
4. Fringe benefits. Appropriate Fringe benefits must be budgeted for all personnel paid through this project.
5. Permanent equipment. This is defined as items having a life of two or more years and/or a cost of \$2000 or more. For items fitting this description, you should explain why this equipment cannot be obtained through loan or rental and detail what will happen with this equipment after the end of the project.
6. Supplies and non permanent equipment. Indicate what consumable supplies will be required to complete this work.
7. Travel: Indicate all travel required for the project. If travel to a scientific meeting is required – you must explain why that meeting is essential for the completion of the project.
8. Indirect costs. Indirect costs are not eligible to be included in the NYGLPF portion of the budget but can be included in the Matching funds.

D. Notification and Reporting requirements:

Successful projects will receive written notification and a separate list of reporting requirements. These requirements include both mid-way and end-of-project reports. Send correspondence to:

Great Lakes Research Consortium
254 Baker Lab
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
1 Forestry Drive
Syracuse, New York 13210